



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

International Dialogue on Migration 2018
Inclusive and innovative partnerships for effective global governance of migration

26 and 27 March 2018, United Nations Headquarters

Summary of conclusions

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) held the first session of its 2018 International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) on 26 and 27 March 2018 at the United Nations in New York. This session was dedicated to discussing the theme “Inclusive and innovative partnerships for effective global governance of migration”, the central importance of partnerships on migration being a key takeaway from the stocktaking meeting, held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in December 2017, as well as from the 2017 IDM discussions.

The event gathered representatives of governments, United Nations and other international and regional organizations, academia, the private sector, diaspora and migrant organizations, as well as civil society. Over the course of two days, the IDM stimulated rich discussion on the centrality of partnerships for global migration governance efforts aimed at adopting a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The recent report from the United Nations Secretary-General, “Making migration work for all”, states that “Managing migration is one of the most urgent and profound tests of international cooperation in our time,” highlighting the central role of cooperation and partnerships in responding to this global challenge. This session provided an opportunity to consider different partnership models in the field of migration and showcase their value by presenting some of the migration management tools developed through cooperation among different actors. Participants highlighted that the global compact for migration presents a historic opportunity to exchange good practices and experiences with successful and inclusive partnerships at the local, national, regional and international levels, and to evaluate both their achievements and challenges. Throughout the course of the two-day discussions, many echoed that this was a unique opportunity to make concrete commitments to replicate and scale up innovative and successful partnerships.

In his opening remarks, IOM Director General, William Lacy Swing, said that a focus on inclusive and innovative partnerships is timely and necessary. Director General Swing reminded participants that partnerships are needed for a good migration governance. Countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as regions, states and cities, must work together to ensure that migration is safe, orderly and regular. Partnerships must be inclusive of all levels and engage all actors, including UN agencies, civil society colleagues and the private sector. And partnerships must be innovative to ensure ethical treatment and successful integration of migrants and to bring together the fields of migration and development.

In her remarks in the opening session, Henrietta Holsman Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF, noted that the challenge facing all of us is to ensure people move safely and by choice, allowing them to make the most of the opportunities offered to them. Currently, there are 50 million children on the move, more than half of whom are driven by conflict and are desperate for a better and safer life. Children are especially vulnerable and many have no choice but to risk their lives, at the mercy of migration laws and practices that often tear families apart. UNICEF believes it can form an alliance for children that would bring together many organizations to identify practical solutions for children on the move. These would include: (1) developing child sensitive laws and practices that allow children to migrate safely; (2) ending the detention of children; (3) improving data on children on the move (UNICEF and IOM are working together to do this); and (4) paying attention to the needs of young adults (UNICEF will launch a special report on youth soon, with hope that it will accelerate new programming for migrant youth). She emphasized how migration involves working across governments, agencies and communities, with each actor bringing something to the table. Identifying strengths and scaling up innovative solutions is needed to ensure the future of migrant children.

Guy Ryder, Director General, International Labour Organization (ILO), in addressing the IDM audience at the opening, reminded participants that today's dialogue about partnerships is particularly timely because of the ongoing negotiations to develop a global compact for migration. Making migration work for all is a challenging and urgent task. In too many countries, migrant workers face discrimination and precarious employment, and exploitation is widespread. Without policies grounded in international labour standards, migrant workers face poor working conditions in which basic work protections are absent. The ILO is committed to strengthening the rights of labour migrants and ILO's agenda calls for policies upholding worker safety and gender equality. ILO is pleased that governments recognize the benefits of labour migration by promoting fair recruitment and global skills partnerships. In addition, ILO recognizes the benefits of social dialogues, such as this IDM event, and hopes that today's dialogue will develop and support good practices.

Speaking on behalf of the New York City, Julie Bolcer, Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Communications, Mayor's Office for International Affairs, described how her office serves immigrants and works closely with the UN and consulates. She stressed that New York is a city that is proud of its immigrants; approximately 6 out of 10 of the city's population are immigrants or children of immigrants. In 2017, NYC co-organized the first mayors' summit on the two global compacts, and since then the city has been working with partners to continue the global compact work. Mayors understand migration and know that they are responsible for ensuring immigrant access to services. However, cities cannot manage all migration issues alone; they must do this in partnerships that prioritize equitable and safe objectives for migration.

The next session, "Setting the scene: Partnering to make migration work for all," was moderated by IOM Director General William Lacy Swing. The first speaker was Louise Arbour, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration, who stressed the importance of building partnerships. Not only are ongoing partnerships within the UN system integral to negotiations for the two global compacts, but partnerships require the UN to adapt to certain realities in the twenty-first century. She urged that our collective focus be fixed on the daily experiences of migrants and in particular the most vulnerable among them. Ultimately, migration is about people and communities, thus everyone has an interest in a people-centered approach to migration. Some migration issues, such as inequalities within and among countries and the size of migrant flows, require enhanced cooperation. Making migration work for all means we need good partnerships to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration.

José Graziano da Silva, Director General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), contributed to the dialogue by video message. He stressed that while ensuring safe orderly and regular migration is critical, it is only achievable if people have the choice to migrate. His office is working to minimize adverse drivers of out-migration such as poverty, food insecurity and climate change, and, at the same time, is trying to create more resilience in affected communities. In this context partnerships are at the core of the Organization's work. He mentioned the importance of integrating agriculture and rural governments in existing partnerships and in the negotiations for the global compact. El Habib Nadir, Co-Chair, Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) 2017–18, reminded the audience about past dialogues organized by GFMD. He described three key challenges for migration today: migrant vulnerability, regional mobility, and migration governance. The question of international cooperation and migration governance is a priority, and a global compact for migration will ensure safe, orderly and regular migration in the future. However, to do this international cooperation is necessary. No state can manage migration alone; regional migration policies are needed.

Raniero Guerra, WHO Assistant Director General for Special Initiatives, made it very clear that migration is predictable, and thus that countries of origin, transit and destination need to be prepared. He described collaborative efforts with IOM that will enable IOM and WHO to work together on migration issues in the future. They will launch assessments of migrant health in individual States, and prepare for a global plan of action to be presented for States' acceptance in 2019. Among the many initiatives Dr Guerra presented is the WHO global action plan for migrant health, which should be ready by the end of 2018. Tim Martineau, Deputy Executive Director, Programme Branch, Director of Fast-Track Implementation, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), presented the partnership model that became central to the AIDS response and which provides important lessons to be learned for migration. Overall, strong progress has been made responding to AIDS, but more work is needed to address AIDS among migrants. UNAIDS is now working with IOM to develop the evidence base, and together they have started developing collaborative frameworks such as in southern Africa and Thailand.

Fatima Kyari Mohammed, Ambassador, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the UN in New York, reminded everyone that migrating to a place that offers better resources is a way to minimize risk across households. Currently, there is growing consensus in the region for a free movement schema along with free trade. It is very important that there are common and convergent policies at the regional level. If coordinated and coherent action can occur, it will ensure migration works for all.

After these two introductory panels, the discussion for the remainder of the two days occurred in six sessions and two panels. Together, these represented a wide variety of topics including: (1) working together to make data available for migration policymaking; (2) joint approaches in migration governance; (3) partnering to achieve the migration-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); (4) national and regional perspectives on the achievement of the SDGs; (5) eliminating forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking; (6) joining forces to assist and protect migrants in vulnerable situations; (7) cooperation at the local level: opportunities and challenges; and (8) whole-of-society partnerships for good migration governance.

The panels included 47 speakers and moderators, representing a balanced mix of policymakers and experts in the areas of migration partnerships and governance. The composition of the panels allowed for balanced gender and geographical representation; speakers, 16 of whom were women, represented almost all regions of the world. Interactive sessions for questions and comments followed each panel, with many State and non-State representatives sharing their experiences in addressing inclusive and innovative partnerships.

IOM Director General William Lacy Swing and Louise Arbour, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration, offered closing remarks. Louise Arbour described the positive sentiment about enhancing partnerships during the last two days of meetings. As the 2030 Agenda lays out an ambitious development project for the twenty-first century, embracing migration as a tool to reduce inequality, partnerships are key and not an erosion of State sovereignty. Partnerships can build trust and yield tangible benefits by positively influencing cooperation across groups. Transformative benefits related to inclusion derive from working together because no State can succeed alone. We are better in partnership than in isolation.

In his closing remarks, Director General Swing stressed few key messages which emerged from the meeting. First, global dialogue and cooperation on migration governance among all actors, including youth, are paramount to success. Genuine and integrated partnerships and cooperation are essential to respond to the needs of migrants and their families. Such partnerships build new ties that will promote and assist effective governance of safe, orderly and regular migration. Second, migration data and analysis must be available to ensure effective policymaking. Although statistics guide decision-making, the data on which these statistics are based must be shared. Capacity-building along these lines is critically important, and IOM and its partner organizations have begun doing this by developing the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre and the Displacement Tracking Matrix. Third, regional groups and consultative processes on migration are critical to developing understanding and cooperation on migration between States. There are many examples, including the Regional Conference on Migration and the GFMD. Fourth, efforts to eliminate forced labour must be redoubled to ensure that migrants' rights are safeguarded. Although this is being addressed in current negotiations related to the global compact for migration, States, international organizations, the private sector and civil society must continue to work together to eradicate all forms of modern slavery and forced labour. Migration is a major source of development when it is orderly, safe and regular. Fifth, migration is a reality to be managed and governed, it is not a crisis. When relationships of trust across States and actors are developed, and maintained, successful governance of migration occurs. Thus, migration is not a crisis but a reality that we can learn how to manage in a humane and good manner using partnerships.

Drawing from comments described above, as well as those from the other deliberations held over the course of two days, the main conclusions and key areas of convergence are summarized below.

Global dialogue and cooperation on migration governance is essential and necessary among all actors in migration. All participants reiterated their support for this point. There was a consensus

that inclusive and innovative partnerships are the most efficient and effective ways to manage migration. In addition to Guy Ryder from the ILO in the opening session, many States expressed support, including the Russian Federation, Mali, Chile, Eritrea, Panama, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Belarus and Bangladesh. Maria Manuel Leitao Marques, Portugal's Minister of the Presidency and Administrative Modernization, described her country's support to global dialogue. Now that Portugal has become both a country of origin and destination for migrants, it has a robust record of ensuring successful integration by developing and employing national support networks whereby local governments, NGOs and other organizations work together.

Daniela Morari, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration for the Republic of Moldova, spoke about the importance of dialogue and partnership and described the Mobility Partnership between the European Union (EU) and the Republic of Moldova. In its tenth year, this is EU's biggest mobility partnership, with some 119 projects. This partnership framework allowed the Republic of Moldova to exchange experiences with countries participating in other EU mobility partnerships, build cooperation with the EU Member States participating in the Mobility Partnership between the EU and the Republic of Moldova, and with the EU institutions. It has also supported institutional capacity building and the creation of legislation in this field. A conference will be held in June to assess progress made under the mobility partnership and discuss the way forward. This is just one example of joint State partnerships that are important to build ownership of migration. In addition, civil society organizations, including NGOs and labour unions also expressed support for global dialogue. In the view of Ambassador Jurgen Schülz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, speaking on behalf of the German Co-Chairmanship of the 2017–2018 GFMD, explained that this year's IDM offers essential opportunities to discuss how we can collectively advance international cooperation, which is one of the guiding principles of a global compact for migration. GFMD is committed to bringing together all types of stakeholders to consider how migration and development work together. Speaking as a representative of the Business Mechanism to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), Peter Robinson, President and CEO of the United States Council for International Business, emphasized the close relationship between business and well-regulated migration systems.

Alkali Kallay Musa Conteh, Director of the Office of Diaspora Affairs in the Ministry of Political and Public Affairs of Sierra Leone, spoke about Sierra Leone's significant diaspora and collaboration with partners to respond to this migration trend. Through a collaboration with ILO and IOM, they mapped the diaspora, especially among the high skilled. The goal is to strengthen networks between home countries and diaspora organizations, and improve the services for

migrants. Sierra Leone has also had success in implementing a program whereby medical doctors from the diaspora train students in rural underserved communities.

Ignacio Packer, Executive Director, International Council of Voluntary Agencies, described how civil society's role and footing in migration has become stronger in recent decades. Semhar Araia, Founder and Executive Director of the Diaspora African Women's Network, described diaspora multi-stakeholder partnerships which ultimately helped alleviate poverty. Eve Geddie, Deputy Director, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, helped us see how civil society and States can collaborate to ensure labour protections for undocumented migrants in Germany and to provide alternatives to the detention of migrants. Finally, Takgon Lee, Attorney, Dongcheon Foundation, Committee of Korean Civil Society Organization, presented how the civil society can also work on behalf of a broad set of interests rather than focusing on one organization's interest. In this case, by training and creating a pool of pro bono lawyers, lawyers are now available to represent the interests and issues of migrants in the courtroom as well as in consultative settings with the Government of the Republic of Korea.

Effective policymaking needs migration data and analysis. Right now, much more needs to be done to bring existing data sources together, to collect new data, and to share data. Session 1 explicitly addressed how to work together to make data available for migration policymaking. John Wilmoth, Population Division, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, briefly mentioned several different partnerships, such as joint migration data initiatives between UNICEF and IOM, and a new data portal for global migration analysis. Ndioro Ndiaye, Minister Councilor to the President of the Republic of Senegal argued that statistics guide decision making, but we need to make sure that available data is shared. She underlined the challenges faced by her country in gathering reliable data due to lack of a system for data collection as well as due to technology and communication gaps. She concluded by stressing the need for African countries to allocate adequate investment for developing an inclusive and coherent policy for data collection and management.

Mark Hereward, Associate Director for Data and Analysis, Division of Data, Research and Policy, UNICEF, described a recent call to action by UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, OECD and Eurostat to disaggregate data on migration by age and sex, to share data, and code the data within and across borders. He described efforts to strengthen country level data collection and hosting of data, to strengthen standards for data collection, to improve protection responses based on enhanced data systems, and to develop and implement strict safeguards when collecting, storing and using data. He hailed IOM as a key partner in all these areas. Frank Laczko, Director, IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, emphasized that the data have no value by themselves unless used effectively to inform policy. He mentioned four recent joint initiatives, among them, the

International Forum on Migration Statistics, by IOM with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs (UNDESA). A second initiative is the Global Migration Data Portal announced by the German Foreign Office, developed in partnership with several UN agencies, based on the idea that before investing in new data capacity, we need to make better use of existing data.

Partnerships and approaches across different sectors, from cities to states to regions to global, are critical to achieve the migration-related Sustainable Development Goals. Speakers described extensive engagement with non-State actors, such as the private sector, civil society, academia and others to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Luis Miguel Hincapié, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Panama, described his experiences as Chair of the Regional Conference on Migration in Central America. Countries which are members of the conference share good migration practices, and forge important partnerships with UNICEF, IOM, ILO, UNDP and other UN agencies, as well as with the Regional Network of Civil Organizations for Migration and other civil society actors. The focus of the regional approach is to facilitate coordination of migration issues throughout the region. Panama holds the Presidency of the RCM during 2018 and proposed as central theme for 2018: Sustainable Development Goals: Towards the Governance of Migration.

Jose Luis Jacome, Vice Minister of Human Mobility in Ecuador, reiterated the commitment of his Government to leave no one behind in achieving sustainable development, and the need to take decisive measures to fight inequalities. He showcased how partnerships across regions and between local and regional areas have led to responses that guarantee the protection of rights of migrants and promotes free mobility. Together with the IOM, Ecuador partners with local governments to implement a project called Human Mobility. Speaking on behalf of Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine in Sri Lanka, Sabarullah Khan, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, New York promoted a regional and dynamic approach to understanding how mobility affects health. Sri Lanka currently works with Bangladesh and other States, and also partners across different sectors inside Sri Lanka such as the national migration task force, migration and health secretariat, and the national steering committee on migration and health.

Osman Toprak, Deputy Mayor of Gaziantep, Turkey, presented how his metropolitan area worked with different neighborhoods to improve the integration of Syrian refugees. This metropolitan area hosts 350,000 registered Syrian refugees, which means there is an acute demand for housing, education, transportation and other services. Working with the national government, as well as with local authorities within the metropolitan area, Gaziantep has already witnessed at least one important sign of success: 92 per cent of Syrian children in the area are

enrolled in primary school. This proportion is higher than the school enrollment rate in pre-war Syria, estimated to 85 per cent. Thus, local capacity-building, together with national support, is crucial for success. The Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality considers refugees are an important human potential for the community.

Others emphasized cooperation between local communities and state and national governments to mitigate the challenges and create opportunities for migrants. Filiep Decorte, Deputy Director of the New York Liaison Office at the UN-Habitat, noted how even though policies are set at the national level, daily lived experiences of migrants occur in local communities. Mayor Edward Terry of the City of Clarkston, USA, described the successful integration of migrants in his city, emphasizing the cooperation that exists among multiple leaders and different generations. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, Assistant Secretary General and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support at UNDP, also described how decentralized financing was key to the cooperation and local partnerships that strengthen migrants' capacity. Eloisa de Sousa Arruda, Secretary for Human Rights and Citizenship in São Paulo, Brazil, described how the city, the home of migrants from more than 150 nationalities, is also a place where key political actors have created policies that promote migrant inclusion through language and social service programs as well as participation in the municipal council. Anis Hidayah, Head of the Migrant Studies Research Center in Migrant Care Indonesia, described how central and local governments work together with the civil society actors to protect migrant workers by offering public services and facilitating ethical practices in the placement of migrant overseas workers.

Much more needs to be done on forced labour and trafficking. Although this is being addressed in some existing global partnerships, abuse in the migration system needs to be eradicated.

Bradley Myles, Chief Executive Officer, Polaris, discussed efforts to improve data about human trafficking victims and an innovative partnership that has emerged. Polaris and IOM formed the first counter trafficking data collaboration. There are more than 50,000 data records available for analysis, and they are seeking additional UN agencies and academic and civil society organizations as collaborators. Others, such as Geoffrey Shaw, Australia's Ambassador for People Smuggling and Human Trafficking, noted the growing awareness among the private sector about risks related to supply chains and the need to partner with business to work on this issue. Among the innovative partnerships presented is Alliance 8.7 Initiative, between ILO, IOM and other UN agencies, civil society and governments, which focuses on eradicating forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking, and ending child labour in all its forms by 2025. The second is a partnership between the ILO, IOM and Walk Free Foundation to produce global estimates on human slavery.

David Schilling, Senior Program Director at the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, talked about the efforts undertaken in the last five years by his organization to reduce forced labour. The goal is to eliminate all worker-paid fees, and he has worked with companies, suppliers and recruiters to get this done. With collective leverage, they have implemented the power of single messaging. Currently, his organization has more than 300 institutional collaborators. Didier Bergeret, Social Sustainability and Global Social Compliance Programme, Consumer Goods Forum, presented the efforts of his organization of 400 members that include businesses and multilateral organizations and governments to eliminate forced labour and promoting positive change. Their message is that all migrant workers should have freedom of movement (and not be restricted by employers through abuse, threats or withholding of passports), no worker should pay for a job (fees and costs with recruitment should be paid by employers), and no worker should be coerced to work (workers should work freely). Much of their effort now is in the seafood and palm oil industries in Asia, focusing on supply chain operations.

Also, Liz Drew, Acting Senior Director for Development, Policy and External Affairs, Heartland Alliance International spoke about how her organization works through multifaceted partnerships around the world to increase the protection and restore the rights of the most vulnerable groups such as victims of trafficking, children in conflict and exploited migrants.

In the same vein, Dr Ely Thelot, President, Committee for the Fight Against Human Trafficking, Haiti explained that the efforts implemented by the Government of Haiti are aimed at responding to the challenges of thousands of Haitian migrants who are at risk of trafficking. Better coordination of response to trafficking is necessary, yet it can't replace a long-term strategy to address this important threat.

Migration is not a crisis but a reality that we need to learn to manage in a humane way, and partnerships can ensure that this occurs. Raniero Guerra, Assistant Director General for Special Initiatives, World Health Organization, reiterated that migration is predictable and not a crisis. Others described how a migration crisis could lead to practices that governments could use to efficiently and humanely manage migration in the future. Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica, described a multi-State collaboration that occurred when large numbers of Cubans arrived in Costa Rica in 2013. This collaboration ultimately converted a potentially political crisis into a humanitarian and human rights response protecting migrants.

Another example of migration management that originated in response to a humanitarian emergency was described by Julian Curi, Deputy Director, National Migration Directorate, Ministry of Interior, Public Works and Housing in Argentina. The crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic prompted Argentina to assist Syrians in the form of humanitarian visas for an initial period of 2 years. This visa can be extended for one additional year, and then Syrians could permanently

regularize their status if they want to stay longer in Argentina. This is a flexible and humane visa arrangement that allows for Syrians to think about returning to their home countries – assuming their situations improve. It also requires partnerships because the visas are offered only if there are families in Argentina that agree to house the refugees.

For Louai Turjiman, Chair, Migration Working Group of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Libya the current migration situation is also a reality of which the international community needs to be aware. Effective and comprehensive cooperation is key to address the challenges of irregular migration such as human trafficking and smuggling. Launched last November, the Migration Working Group is such an effort by coordinating technical assistance and policy advice on approaches to migration, serving as a platform for constructive dialogue and for the development of practical solutions to aid effective and humane migration governance. In the context of coordination of efforts between actors to ensure humane management of migration, Grainne O'Hara, Deputy Director, UNHCR Office, New York provided examples of initiatives developed through collaboration between UNHCR and IOM such as the referral mechanism aimed at identifying, protecting and assisting migrants who are in vulnerable situations. Another example of coordination of efforts to address the protection needs of migrants is the response to victims of trafficking developed jointly with IOM.

Conclusion

Discussions in this IDM session, as many States affirmed, provide input into the types of inclusive and innovative partnerships that could be implemented after a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration has been adopted. The present summary is not all-encompassing. A comprehensive analytical report will be produced and will include the outcomes of the two sessions of the International Dialogue on Migration planned in 2018. The report will be provided as input to, amongst others, the intergovernmental conference to adopt a global compact for migration scheduled in Morocco in the first week of December 2018, which will be an important opportunity to consider what partnerships are needed to implement a global compact for migration.

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